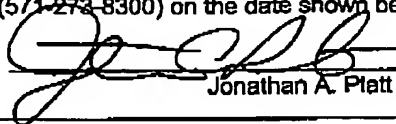


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Date: December 29, 2005
Jonathan A. Platt

Attorney Docket No. ERICP0326USB

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Applicants: Gregel et al.

Serial No.: 10/697,509

Filed: October 30, 2003

Title: REINFORCING BAR CONNECTION AND METHOD

Examiner: James R. Brittain

Art Unit: 3677

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Further and favorable consideration of the above application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments presented in the following listing of claims, and in view of the following remarks.